

**REMARKS**


Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu (U.S. Patent 5,489,400) or WO 97/03127.

Applicants now claim an electrically conductive composition which comprises a plurality of *cross-linked* polymeric complexes. Each polymeric complex comprises a strand of a  $\pi$ -conjugated polymer and a strand of a polyelectrolyte. The polyelectrolyte is non-covalently bonded to the  $\pi$ -conjugated polymer and has at least one reactive functional group which facilitates the cross-linkage between the polymeric complexes when the complexes are heated. The composition resists swelling when exposed to an aqueous medium.

Neither of the cited references teach an electrically conductive composition comprised of polymeric complexes that are *cross-linked* as now claimed by Applicants. Nor do the cited references contain any suggestions of modifying the compositions disclosed in the references to produce the claimed electrically conductive compositions comprised of the *cross-linked* polymeric complexes.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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